

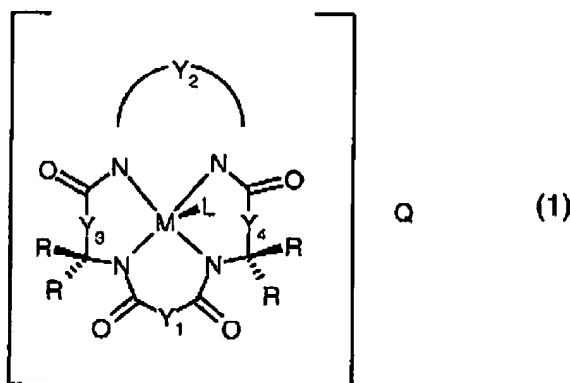
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for dyeing textiles comprising:

dyeing the textiles with a reactive dye; and

subjecting the dyed textiles to at least one post dyeing rinsing step, wherein in at least one of the post-dyeing rinsing steps, the dyed textile material is contacted removing excess, unfixed dye from dyed textile materials comprising treating the dyed textile materials with an oxidizing system comprising the two components

1) a macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1)



where

Y_1 , Y_3 and Y_4 are each independently a single bond or a bridge member which contains 1, 2 or 3 carbon atoms in the bridge,

Y_2 is a bridge member having at least 1 carbon atom in the bridge,

R is independently in each occurrence hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkynyl, alkylaryl, halogen, alkoxy, phenoxy, CH_2CF_3 or CF_3 or two R radicals which are bound to the same carbon atom combine to form a substituted or unsubstituted benzene, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring, the carbon atom to which the two R radicals are bound being part of the benzene, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring,

M is a member selected from the group consisting of transition metals in the oxidation states I, II, III, IV, V, VI and combinations thereof or is a

member selected from groups consisting of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 of the periodic table and combinations thereof,

Q is a counterion which balances the charge of the macrocyclic metal complex on a stoichiometric basis, and

L is a further ligand

and

2) an oxidizing agent

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1) ,

Y₁, Y₃ and Y₄ are each independently a (-CH₂)_x group, where x is 1, 2 or 3 and one or more hydrogen atoms in the (-CH₂)_x group may be substituted by an Rⁱ radical, Rⁱ being alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkynyl, alkylaryl, halogen, alkoxy or phenoxy, or two Rⁱ radicals which are bound to two adjacent carbon atoms of the (-CH₂)_x group combining to form a benzene, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring which may contain one or more hetero atoms.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1)

Y₂ is a bridge member having 1, 2 or 3 carbon atoms in the bridge, comprising a (-CH₂)_y group, where y is 1 or 2 and one or more hydrogen atoms in the (-CH₂)_y group is optionally substituted by an Rⁱⁱ radical, Rⁱⁱ being alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkynyl, alkylaryl, halogen, alkoxy or phenoxy, or two Rⁱⁱ radicals which are bound to two adjacent carbon atoms of the (-CH₂)_y group combining to form an optionally substituted benzene, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring which optionally contain one or more hetero atoms.

5. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 4, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ optionally the hetero atoms are one of N, O or S, and characterized in that optionally the substituted benzene ring is substituted by electron-donating or electron withdrawing radicals.

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6. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1),

the R radicals are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₁₂-cycloalkenyl, C₂-C₈-alkenyl, C₈-C₁₄-aryl, C₂-C₁₂-alkynyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkylaryl, halogen, alkoxy, phenoxy, CH₂CF₃ or CF₃ or two R radicals which are bound to the same carbon atom combine to form a substituted or unsubstituted benzene, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or C₄-C₁₂-cycloalkenyl ring, with the carbon atom to which the two R radicals are bound being part of the benzene, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1) M is selected from the group consisting of Cr, Mo, W, Mn, Fe, Ru, Os, Co, Rh, Ir, Ni, Pd or Pt.

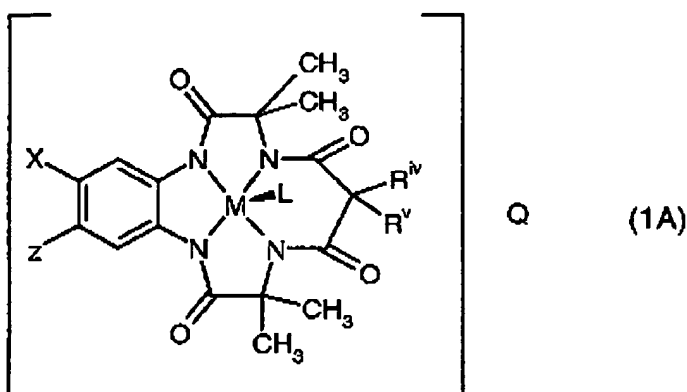
8. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1) Q is an alkali metal counterion, NRⁱⁱⁱ₄⁺ or PRⁱⁱⁱ₄⁺, where every Rⁱⁱⁱ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, alkenyl or joins to form a cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or aryl ring which optionally contains one or more hetero atoms.

9. (Original) The process according to Claim 8, wherein the hetero atoms are oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen.

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the general formula (1) L is a labile ligand.

11. (Original) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the labile ligand is H₂O, Cl or CN.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a macrocyclic metal complex used has the general formula (1A)



where

X and Z are each independently hydrogen, electron-donating or electron-withdrawing groups,

R^{IV} and R^V are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkynyl, alkylaryl, halogen, alkoxy or phenoxy radicals or combine to form a cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring which optionally contain one or more hetero atoms,

M is a transition metal of the oxidation states I, II, III, IV, V, VI or is selected from the groups 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11 of the periodic table,

Q is a counter ion which balances the charge of the macrocyclic metal complex on a stoichiometric basis, and

L is a further ligand.

13. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 12, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ X and Z in the general formula (1A) are each independently halogen, SO_3^- , OSO_3^- , OSO_3R^{VI} where R^{VI} is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or alkylaryl, NO_2^- , C_1 - C_8 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, or hydrogen.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 12, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ in the macrocyclic metal complex of the formula (1A), R^{IV} and R^V are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkynyl, halogen, alkoxy or phenoxy radicals or combine to form a cycloalkyl ring, or a cycloalkenyl ring, where the cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring optionally contains one or more hetero atoms.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 14, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the alkyl is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₅-alkyl, methyl and ethyl.
16. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 1, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the oxidizing agent comprises hydrogen peroxide, hydrogen peroxide adducts, urea peroxide, compounds capable of releasing or generating hydrogen peroxide in aqueous solution, perborate, organic peroxides, persulphates, or persilicates.
17. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 16, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the hydrogen peroxide adducts are selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, sodium, lithium and potassium.
18. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim 16, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ optionally the organic peroxides are benzoyl or cumene hydroperoxides; and optionally the persulphates are peroxymonosulphate or Caro's acid.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein characterized ~~in that~~ the dyed textile material was dyed with water-soluble dyes, ~~which are optionally reactive dyes.~~
22. (Canceled)